

Separating Mixtures

Station materials:

- Large sieves (3)
- Small sieves (3)
- Slotted spoons (3)
- Tweezers (3)
- Magnifying Glass (4-6)
- Small Cups
- Plastic Dish Pans (4)
- “Mixture”(sand, rice, beans, colored beads, clear beads, gravel)

Station set-up:

- Distribute the “mixture” into the plastic dish pans
- Distribute stacks of plastic cups near each dish pan
- Lay all of the tools on the table

Guiding the learning:

- Explain to the students that their job is to separate the mixtures by having each different component in a different cup
- They can use any tools, but not their fingers alone
- While they are working, discuss with the students the properties of the components that make it easier (color beads easier to see)
- What is the main property that is being used by this collection of tools (particle size)
- Reset for the next group of students by re-mixing into the pie pan
- Please return the “Mixture” to the zip-loc bag at the end

Science Talking Points:

- Mixtures are combinations of substances that can be separated by physical means
- The physical properties that we separate this mixture by are size, shape and, in some cases, color